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Presidential Commentary

Leonard M. Owen



As I gather my notes together for this commentary for the Fall issue of *The Centinel*, I realize that I only received my Summer edition a couple of weeks ago and it is now time for the Fall issue which you will not receive for several more weeks. I do not fault any one on this lengthy amount of time between this being written and the time that you actually have your copy in hand, however, you may find that what is written in this commentary may be ancient history by the time you read it.

Enough for non-numismatic commentary. As this is being written, it is 50 days from the opening day of the Cincinnati Fall Show. The show is being held at the Drawbridge Inn and Convention Center, 2477 Royal Drive, Ft. Mitchell, KY. It is located between downtown Cincinnati and the Greater Cincinnati International Airport.

In talking with Paul Padget, all plans have been met and we can plan on having an enjoyable show. Paul has conducted shows at this same location in the past so this show is not much of a challenge to him.

As you may have noticed on page 46 of the Summer *Centinel*, Fred Oliver has the bourse information and is still accepting dealer applications for the spring show at the Rosemont Exposition Center in Rosemont, Illinois. This promises to be one of the outstanding shows of the year, and you should plan to attend. Kevin Foley and Fred Oliver are co-chairmen of the promotional aspects of this show and are leaders in their field for show promotions. Those who know these two gentlemen are aware that they come well recommended.

As I have said before, members should feel free to contact me at any time with concerns that they might have with our organization. You could also include some of your thoughts as to a method of correcting the subject of your concern.

Occasionally, we receive a lengthy letter from a member who feels that he has been slighted in some way or who has a concern of another nature. Many of these letters are constructive and they are all read and discussed at a meeting of the full Board of Governors at a regular meeting. These letters are still welcome and we are interested in your concerns at all times. However, if you would state the nature of your problem with your thoughts as to a solution, it would be helpful to the Board.

Leonard M. Owen
President

A Message from the Secretary

Robert "Bob" E. Douglas



I will swear that the editors, Jim and Karen Jach are pushing me for a message far before they really need it. I just finished the last one, so it seems. As I write this on the last week of July, summer is 2/3 over and I still have to get the fishing tackle box ready for the annual Canadian outing at the end of this week.

The fall CSNS Convention September 18-20, 1992 is set to go! Paul Padgett plans to have approximately 125 dealers, two different auctions, one Friday night and the other Saturday night, as well as seminars, speakers, and exhibits by the Cincinnati Numismatic Association. Sounds interesting. The Convention will be at the Drawbridge Inn and Convention Center, 2477 Royal Drive, Ft. Mitchell, KY. Plan to attend and meet your new CSNS Board members. We are always

looking forward to meeting our CSNS members and listening to your comments and ideas.

Speaking of ideas, one that has been put forward for study at our last Board meeting is that the CSNS Board be reduced to three officers and six governors elected at large. This was proposed as a cost reduction item. Our board members receive hotel expenses at the spring convention and both hotel and travel expenses at the fall convention. Nothing is firm on this as yet, however, I would like your feedback on this issue. Give me your opinion on the reduction of board members and four officers (President, 1st and 2nd Vice, and Secretary/Treasurer) reduced to three (President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer) and thirteen Governors (not more than two from each state of CSNS territory) reduced to six elected at large.

Your new CSNS Board is listed in the front of *The Centinel*. Please feel free to advise us in person or by letter of any or all of your ideas for a better CSNS organization. At the convention just look for those gold jackets — the sign of a CSNS Board member.

If you know of a convention decorating firm in your area, advise them the CSNS Board is soliciting bids for the 1994-1996 CSNS conventions. They can contact me for further information.

As always I have a list of CSNS members that have moved and not advised me. Please see if you can help me with a new address for the list on page 9 of this publication.

By this time you have received your 1992 dues notices with your 1992 membership card. Please follow up by sending me your check for your dues. Save now! Dues next year are \$8.00 and \$125 for a life membership (Junior dues remain \$1.00). How about converting to a life membership?

See you at a convention!!

Robert (Bob) E. Douglas

Phone 319/364-0706, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Future CSNS Conventions

1993 — May 20-23	Chicago, Illinois Fred Oliver, 743 Calliente Dr., Brandon, FL 33511, Phone 813/684-3854
1994 — April 7-10	Indianapolis, Indiana
1995 — April 27-30	Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1996 — April 10-14	Kansas City, Missouri

NOTE TO CLUB OFFICIALS

Interested in hosting a future CSNS Convention? It is not too early to begin thinking of the future! Submit your letter of invitation to the CSNS Secretary-Treasurer at your earliest convenience. Your request will receive the prompt attention of the Officers and Board of Governors.

- NOTICE - REQUEST FOR BID

The CSNS Board of Directors invites all qualified Convention Decorator Firms to submit a bid to provide the following for the CSNS Conventions in the years 1994 through 1996:

1. Booth price (total 300-350) for 10' x 10' booth consisting of 3 foot high drape backwalls with bar at 8 foot height, 3 foot drape sidewalls, 1 — 8' x 2½' skirted table, 1 — 6' x 2' backup table with cover, and four folding chairs per booth.
2. Additional 8' x 2½' skirted tables for corner booths.
3. One — line 7" x 44" ID signs for dealer name; or, two — line 7" x 44" ID signs for dealer name plus city and state.
4. Reasonable amounts of stock furnishings for registration tables.

Please submit bids to:

**Robert E. (Bob) Douglas, Secretary/Treasurer CSNS
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Young Numismatists of America

The YNA has recently published the Summer issue of its official journal, the *Young Numismatist Digest*. Numismatics of the Civil War era are examined in "An Exhaustion of Metal, An Abundance of Ideas," by Benjamin Phillips, and John Kraljevich, Jr. continues his review of numismatic literature. Regular columns by Greg Lyon, Scott Rottinghaus, Chris Shappell, and Ben Phillips are also featured. The YNA publishes its newly-approved bylaws in this issue and examines news both of the organization and of the entire hobby. Considerable donations by two of the YNA's many supporters are also detailed in this issue.

The YNA continues to grow with over 120 active members. YNA strives to advance the interests of young numismatists by promoting numismatic writing, research, speaking, exhibiting, and education. All members receive the *Young Numismatist Digest* in addition to various other educational opportunities and eligibility for the YNA's awards programs. Dues are \$6 per year for young numismatists under 21) and \$10 for senior numismatists. To join, send your name, address, and birth date, along with appropriate dues to Benjamin Phillips, Treasurer, Young Numismatists of America, 8 Iroquois Trail, Monsey, NY 10952-4923.

ADVERTISING RATES

	One Issue	Four Issue Contract
Eighth Page	\$15.00	\$50.00
Quarter Page	25.00	80.00
Half Page	40.00	130.00
Full Page	70.00	240.00

**Deadline for copy will be
February 1, May 1,
August 1 and November 1.**

Membership Applications

The persons named below have applied for membership in the Society. Each applicant will become a member in 30 days, unless a written objection to his or her application is received by the Secretary-Treasurer prior to that date.

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

6605	John K. Cumming, MD	St. Paul, MN
6607	John Chermak	Cedar Rapids, IA
6608	Bobby Hurst	Titusville, FL
6609	Don Keopple II	Hampton, IL
6610	Maurice Shepherd	Charleston, IL
6611	Jim Carr	Cincinnati, OH
6612	Jim Sneed	Cincinnati, OH
6613	Larry Rhodes	Cincinnati, OH
6614	John L. Veach	Lincoln, NE
6615	Cyril Bish	Lincoln, NE
6616	Bill Thompson	Lincoln, NE
6617	Gailen L. McMullen	Beatrice, NE
6618	J. Roger Bolz	Lincoln, NE
6619	Dianne Elsken	Lincoln, NE
6623	Michael Elsken	Lincoln, NE
6624	Kevin Muir	Cincinnati, OH
6625	Rod Burress	Cincinnati, OH
6626	Dana Samuelson	Cary, NC
6627	Grant Colstrom	Crystal, MN

JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

6606	Melissa Olson	De Forest, WI
6620	Warren Elsken	Lincoln, NE
6621	Sean Keelan	Lincoln, NE
6622	Seth Felton	Lincoln, NE

LIFE MEMBERS

529	Ruth A. Phillips	Madison, WI
530	Andrew E. Michyeta III	Chicago, IL

DECEASED MEMBERS

The Board and membership of the Society join in extending our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the following members, who passed away recently.

R6281	Dwayne A. Perry	Farmers Branch, TX
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CSNS HONOR ROLL

The following members have attained continuous CSNS membership for the number of years shown.

20 YEARS

L117	Robert S. Cohen	Rockville, MD
L160	Chuck Furjanic	Irving, TX
R2427	Carl J. DiCapo	Kansas City, MO
R2435	Richard Groves	Carpentersville, IL
R2436	Richard A. Nelson	Tarzana, CA

LOST MEMBERS

Can you help the Secretary find them?

Rex Peterson	Lancaster, WI
Mark J. Allen.....	Green Bay, WI
Brian Koszmar	Boca Raton, FL
Leonard Helicher.....	New York, NY
Richard Hockanson.....	Bayshore, NY
Chris Stahle.....	Manasquan, NJ
Abraham Gray	Minneapolis, MN

An Illustrated Guide to Wisconsin Encased Coins

Jerry Binsfeld has recently completed the 1st edition of *An Illustrated Guide to Wisconsin Encased Coins*. The 8½ x 11 inch soft-covered guide has 90 pages and lists over 345 different Wisconsin encased coins including 56 attributed mavericks from 93 Wisconsin towns and cities as well as 200 photos. The guide was released in September.

The guide is being offered to Central States members at the pre-publication price of \$10.00 postpaid. Send your requests to Jerry Binsfeld, P.O. Box 191, Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158. When ordering mention that you are a member of Central States in order to receive the pre-publication price. The guide retails for \$15.95 postpaid.

In addition, Jerry, along with his son Brian, are writing a hard cover *Illustrated Guide to U.S. Encased Coins*. They have over 3,000 listed and are seeking help from collectors to add to the total. They estimate there are 7,000 to 10,000 different in existence. All contributors will be acknowledged in the guide which is due out in September of 1993. Please send the shape and make-up, date and type of coin as well as the information featured on the encasement to Jerry or Brian Binsfeld, P.O. Box 191, Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158.

Would You Like To Submit An Article To *The Centinel*?

The Central States Numismatic Society welcomes articles related broadly to numismatic themes. All of the material contributed will be entered in competition for the Elston Bradfield Literary Award for the best article to appear in *The Centinel*.

Articles from contributors less than 18 years old are entered in competition for the Daniel Parker Literary Award.

Articles should contain accurate information and clear photos or drawings to help illustrate your subject.

In addition, authors are compensated at a rate of roughly five dollars per 100 words.

If you have a piece you'd like to submit for possible publication, contact the editors — Jim and Karen Jach, P.O. Box 21766, Milwaukee, WI 53221, phone 414/281-4687.



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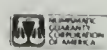
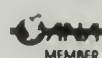
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The Norse American Commemorative Issues[©]

Anthony Swiatek

This opus dealing with the Norse-American Centennial medals of 1925 was written in response to hundreds of requests from collectors, investors and dealers seeking information pertaining to those “Norse **thick** and **thins**.” Inquiry followed inquiry as to why there is so little information on the subject. Where can I locate more info? How good of an investment are they?, etc. Most wanted to know more about the issue because it is constantly seen offered for sale along with the commemorative series.

After four hundred dollars worth of phone calls, several plane trips, much separation of human fact from fiction and two months of many hours of pure hard original research, I am very grateful to be able to present to you this comprehensive study of the abovementioned issues.

How did the medals become a reality?

An individual most proud of his Norse descent wanted to contribute to the growth of its heritage, as well as having its centennial celebration remembered, by having it preserved “in metal” as well as “paper time capsules” for the “future” to recall. Such was his dream and goal. His name was O.J. Kvale, Congressman (7th Dist. Minneapolis) of the Coin, Weights and Measures Committee, etc.

On February 3, 1925, accompanied by his son, he visited his friends in the Treasury Department in order to present the first draft of his bill which was to be introduced the following day, authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to prepare and issue silver medals commemorating the Norse American Centennial. During the discussion, it was immediately pointed out that objections would arise as to the production of a round medal because of its similarity in size between the quarter and half dollar. Acting Mint Director Miss M.M. O'Reilly, present at the meeting, indicated that the only alternative would be the striking of a round medal which must be larger, thicker and heavier than a silver dollar.

It was at this moment, that his son suggested the medal be made octagonal (eight sides) or hexagonal (six sides). Immediately, Miss O'Reilly and Under-Secretary of the Treasury Winston, both loved the idea. Thus, we now know how and why the shape of the medal was selected!



During the day, the Congressman also spoke to legal representatives in the House Legislative Drafting Service and the legal counsel in the Treasury to be certain the bill would contain no “imperfections” which could cause later troubles. Shortly thereafter, he was informed that the Treasury Department would assure him — from the beginning — all the possible cooperation necessary to help him make his goal a reality.

All silver used to strike these medals was to be advanced by the government from its supply at the mint, thus obviating the necessity of purchasing silver in the open market by the Norse American Centennial Commission. Their cost would represent only production (up to a maximum of 40,000 medals) and dye making. One might now ask: “Why wasn’t a commemorative coin struck instead of a medal?” A good question. Looking back at this period (1925), we note that Congress authorized six commemorative issues:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| a) The Lexington-Concord Sesquicentennial half dollar | January 14 |
| b) The Ft. Vancouver Centennial half dollar | February 14 |
| c) The California Diamond Jubilee half dollar | February 14 |
| d) The Vermont or Battle of Bennington half dollar | February 24 |
| e) The Sesquicentennial of American Independence
half dollar and \$2-1/2 gold issues | March 3 |

Remember that agitation concerning the “Huguenot-Walloon Tercenary” half dollar of 1924? Its suppression was desired, for it was labeled a vehicle for religious propaganda and was therefore un-American and unsuitable for our coinage!

Others argued that American events associated with the H - W settling could have been commemorated, instead of the approved remembrance of their settling in the New World. With this in mind, Congressman Kvale knew that striking a special coin was impossible because of the existing attitudes of Congress and the Treasury Department. Medal, Si! Commemorative coin honoring the arrival of the first shipload of Norse immigrants. No!! Thus, we now are aware as to why a medal and not a coin was produced.

Why were the Norse medals struck?

On March 2, 1925, one day before the “Sesqui” approval, Congress authorized the production of a maximum 40,000 octagonal medals by the Philadelphia Mint for the Norse-American Centennial celebrations. Such was to be minted to preserve remembrance of the New York (Orleans County) arrival, on October 9, 1825, of the first group of Norse immigrants to America on board the sloop RESTAURATIONEN. (This represented the first organized immigration, for Norwegians arriving here during the earliest colonial years!) Festivities were to take place on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds between June 6 through the 9, 1925.

Who created this issue?

In search for a well known designer, Congressman Kvale had hoped his friend Senator Shipstead would be able to contact Gutzon Borglum, creator of the Stone Mountain half dollar and request his services for a nominal fee — or even gratis! The famous sculptor who was to leave the Stone Mountain project to carve the gigantic heads of Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Lincoln on Mount Rushmore, SD, was just too busy.

Since time was of the essence, James Earle Fraser, husband of the famous designer Laura Gardin Fraser, sculptor and member of the Federal Commission of Fine Arts was asked “to do the honors.” It was the Frasers by the way who prepared the designs for the Oregon Trail half dollars — which are considered among the finest in the commemorative series.

At this point one might argue that OPUS FRASER and not “J.E.F.” designed this

issue — for his name is seen on the medal's reverse. True. However, OPUS FRASER per se is not a person! According to friend Francis D. Campbell, Jr., Chief Librarian of the American Numismatic Society, OPUS is the Latin term for "work of." Thus, work of FRASER! Opus was frequently used by Gunthe Kienast in the world "Medals of Karl Goetz." Friend, David T. Alexander, Executive Director of the Numismatic Literary Guild also added that the use of this term was an old fashioned European method. Since the medal commemorated the Norse immigrants, a "touch of OPUS" was added. Examining the die and designing costs incurred by the Centennial, I would be of the strong opinion that Mr. Fraser was paid \$1,500 for his efforts. Sounds high? Why, his wife was paid \$1,200 for the creation of the Ft. Vancouver half dollar issue of 1925. Based on previous numismatic research, this was the fee charged by a top designer, when creating a coin design.

The Minneapolis Journal on March 29, 1925 presented a sketch of the Norse medal. Naturally, there was some criticism concerning the design, claiming that people, here in America, would get the impression that the Norsemen in 1825 still lived, acted and dressed the way the Knights of Europe dressed during the Middle Ages or during the feudal age, or that those immigrants who arrived here in 1825 looked, lived and acted the same. Others felt the date 1000 A.D., or Vinland 1000 be located below the Viking pictured on the obverse, thus indicating the proper time period. However, the aforementioned had no effect on the planned design.

Orders for the Norse issue — which was as yet to be struck by the Mint — started to arrive at the Committee's Medal Department, 11 Washington Ave. S, Minneapolis, Minnesota in late April. Offered first were the thick specimens at \$1.25 each. Rules stated that no customer was permitted to purchase more than one! However, you could order for all "500" people in your family, if that be the case — via an individual order for each medal. It was also made known that this could be the only method of acquisition, for none were to be offered at the celebrations, or delivered in person at the time of purchase. This was done to keep an exact record of what was sold and have postal receipts of each, as proof, for accounting purposes.

As an added incentive to purchase the medal, it was made known that they would become more valuable as time passes because it was the first medal authorized by the Congress of the United States. Actually, this is not true — as the Centennial was to later discover.

Do octagonal die trial pieces exist for this issue?

A letter sent by Miss M.M. O'Reilly, Acting Director of the Mint to Hon. Charles Moore, Chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts, dated 4/14/25, was accompanied by one "round" obverse and one "round" reverse or uniface trial strikings of the Norse issue — struck in copper.

Received and approved on the following day (4/15), the only criticism by the Commission was that the article "THE" be removed from the reverse inscription before the word "Congress." It originally read AUTHORIZED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Such a phrase would never be used in writing or speaking, and thus it was changed to read AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

There is no record in the National Archives of the corrected die trial piece or round copper uniface specimen, but such was officially made, and presently resides in a client's collection. It measures 3.6x3.6cm with a .2cm thickness or almost 1½ inches wide with a 1/16 inch thickness. Thus, we may conclude that there exists one round obverse die trial piece — since the medal's obverse was approved — and two round reverse trial pieces — with and without the article "THE" as mentioned above — struck in copper.

Now, this issue's symbolism and its interpretation.

Observing this medal's obverse, we can see a full length figure of a Norwegian Viking

chieftain who has left his ship and has just come ashore on the American continent. He is depicted in his full fighting regalia which consists of a horned helmet, breastplate, SVARD or dagger, sword (in right hand) and battle shield (in left hand).

Actually, the protective head covering was not worn in battle. Recent studies reveal that the horned helmet was only ceremonial in nature and used more than three thousand years ago during the Bronze age. Most likely, it was worn by one who was thought to possess supernatural powers for healing and invoking spirits — a kind of medicine man.

The Vikings, who are also called Norsemen were seafaring warriors who raided and colonized wide areas of Europe from the 9th to 11th centuries. This disruptive influence was to have a profound affect on European history. Why did they raid? These pagan Danish, Swedish and Norwegian warriors undertook such raids probably because of many factors, ranging from an overpopulation at home to the relative helplessness of their victims abroad, especially the Irish monks, who recorded their acts.

One might now question the reasoning behind the portrayal of the Viking on this issue!

Would not a figure of Leif Erikson, the 11th Century Norse explorer who is said to be the first European to set foot on the American continent, at a place called Vinland, “without a horned helmet,” be more of an appropriate choice?

The mind of Congressman Kvale was to see not the aforementioned explorer. It saw pure romanticization. It saw a Viking ship and its chieftain in full fighting regalia.

Located in the upper field is the inscription NORSE AMERICAN CENTENNIAL with the Centennial dates 1825-1925, separated by this awesome figure.

Upon returning to Norway in 1824, “pioneer pathfinder,” Kleng Peerson presented glowing accounts of the possibilities to be realized in America. Based on his enthusiasm for this country, Norse-descendent traders and farmers arrived in New York the following year on October 9, 1825, via the RESTAURATIONEN and were to journey successfully westward over the years (1925).

This issue’s reverse does not portray the RESTAURATIONEN, but a Viking ship with full crew at sea. Above, we note the inscription AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. Located in the lower field is the date A.D. 1000, indicating the approximate time Lief Erickson landed at Vinland. The designer’s “OPUS” is located about the eight o’clock position.

What are the mintage figures for the Norse issues?

It appears that the Philadelphia Mint struck this issue in the early part of May, 1925. Records indicate that 39,850 silver pieces in total were struck — like ordinary business strikings, then counted and bagged — and shipped to the Fourth Street National Bank of Philadelphia for the Committee. (Included in this figure were the gold medals.)

Delivered in total were the following:

- A) 33,750 pieces struck on a “thick” octagonal silver planchet.
3.0cm by 2.9cm (dia.) with a .2cm thickness or a 1¼” medal with a ⅛” thickness.
Production dates: May 29; June 1-6; 8-13, 1925.
- B) 6,000 pieces struck on a “thin” octagonal silver planchet.
3.0cm by 2.9cm (dia.) with an approximate 1.6cm thickness or a 1¼” medal with a ⅓” thickness. Production dates: May 21 - 2000 pieces; May 22 - 3000 pieces; and May 23 - 1000 pieces.
- C) 100 Matte proof pieces struck twice on a .900 fine octagonal gold planchet .245cm by 2.4cm (dia.) with an approximate .2cm thickness or just short of one inch wide with a ⅛” thickness. Production dates: June 3 & 4, 1925.
- D) 75 picces were struck approximately seven (7) months later on a copper-bronze planchet. 6.95cm by 6.7cm (dia.) with a .45cm thickness or a 2⅝” wide medal with almost a ¼” thickness. Production dates: After November 27, 1925.

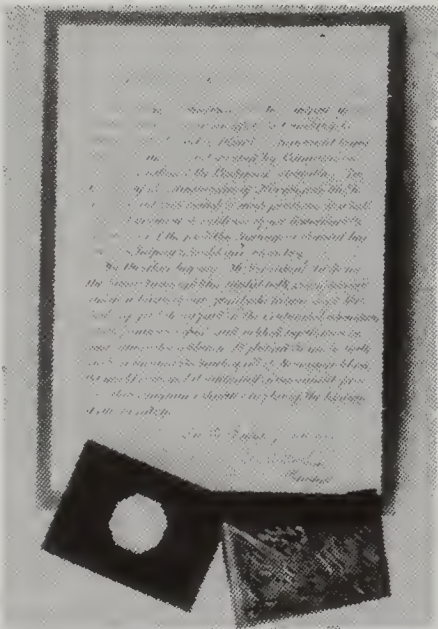
In early October, 1925, it was learned that the Norse medals were not the first to be

authorized by Congress as claimed by the Norse Publicity Committee. Congressman Kvale was informed by Mint Director R.S. Grant that a medal issued for the American Centennial which took place in Philadelphia in 1876 was the first! He was now to further discover that this medal was produced in different sizes! The larger size “turned him on.” Immediately he informed the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. J.A. Holvik, that he believed fifty (50) three-inch bronze medals should also be struck for it would show the detail more clearly especially in the display cases in museums, colleges and the like. In fact, he would purchase all the medals — at cost — in the event they were not sold after July 1, 1926! Mr. Holvik was against this idea and would vote against such. Now, one perceived a growing dislike between these two gentlemen. Since all members of the Board were for the new medal, he chose to do likewise. According to his papers, he did relate that he hoped this was the last phase of the medal situation. On November 27, 1925, the Board authorized the Congressman to have the “bronze” become a reality!

Seventy-five (75) copper-bronze medals and not fifty (50) were struck, most likely in December by the Philadelphia Mint. However, for reasons known only to “the Congressman,” possibly all of the medals were silver triple plated outside the Mint by a private firm in the nation’s capital. Could it be that silver looks more prestigious than bronze? Thirty pieces were presented or mailed to official guests from Norway, attending the later celebrations, as well as President Coolidge. This was probably the reason as to why seventy-five medals were struck.

The Centennial received the following medals from the Mint at cost: a) Silver thick @ \$.45 each; b) Silver - thin @ \$.30 each; c) Gold @ \$10.14 each. The thick was sold for \$1.25 or almost three times cost. No information is available as yet on the “thin’s” selling price, but I would estimate \$1.75. The reason as to why a thin blank was struck also remains an elusive “needle in the haystack.” Max E. Brail of Jackson, Michigan, remembered purchasing the gold specimen for about \$20 back in 1925, from the Centennial.

First strikings of the silver and gold medals were retained by the Centennial Corporation. Congressman O.J. Kvale was presented gold medal #2 or the second piece struck in appreciation of his services, while George L. Croker, W.J. Clark and J. Carmichael were presented with gold strikings #3 through #5 respectively, in appreciation of courtesies extended the Centennial. President Coolidge was presented with a gold medal which was produced somewhere between the seventh and eleventh striking.



Gold Norse Medal with case and letter presented to President & Mrs. Coolidge (Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society)



Closeup of presentation case and Norse gold medal presented to President and Mrs. Coolidge. (Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society).

As of July 31, 1925, 7,697 Norse “thicks” were sold, leaving 26,053 pieces in stock, as well as 53 gold specimens, plus the entire 6,000 Norse “thins” — which were not offered for sale until November or December of that year. They were reportedly sold out to non-collectors. (The Numismatist, June 1933).

By October 14, 1925, Secretary Johan Andreas Holvik expressed his lack of understanding as to why “Norsemen” purchased the medal. He believed it was possibly the delay in obtaining the medals from the Mint. When they did arrive, the initial interest might have been lost. Or was it that the price was too high?

According to a letter published in the June 1933 issue of the Numismatist, page 397, all unsold medals were called in by the Central Committee. The results according to Treasurer Lars O. Haugh — equated to the return of 2,000 “thick” pieces from a Chicago bank as well as a few “thins,” — all of which are in his possession. Possibly these 2,000 thick pieces were returned to the Mint and melted, leaving us with a total mintage of 31,750 or eventually sold. Additional research will reveal such. It is also believed the 53 gold matte proof medals were also returned. Money was owed the government and the said would lower the bill. Thus, 47 pieces may only exist.

By December, 1936, the “thin” was selling for \$5, while the “thick” could be purchased for \$3. The gold and silver plated medals were rarely offered for sale.

As previously mentioned, these medals were struck like coins and treated in the same manner. They will exhibit bag marks, nicks, scratches, varying degrees of striking qualities, especially near the inner rims, differ slightly in measurement, exhibit little to heavy wear because they were, shall we say, “medically” abused, since the medals — mostly the thick — were kept as pocket and dresser drawer pieces, improperly handled, and even worn (on a neck chain) by visitors to the celebration and thereafter. Friend, Selby Unger showed me several pieces that would grade numismatically from ABOUT GOOD to VERY FINE from his stock. Evident was the abovementioned quality of the inner rim which he also pointed out.

Can the Norse issue be considered a coin? Congress authorized such as medals. Thus, they are not legal tender at a face value which can be acceptable in the discharge of debts. However, these specimens have been collected along with U.S. commemorative half dollars since 1925 and have shown good appreciation considering they have seldom been in the limelight.

The very rare matte proof gold specimens have sold between \$3,500 and \$12,000 when offered. Attribute price range of these treasures to the condition or quality of the offered piece. Scratches, cuts, digs and doctoring lower the value. Have seen an offering that was polished lightly to remove a fine scratch, then acid dipped to simulate the once original surface. Another polished rarity was also acid treated to hide the unoriginal surface. The dealer who bought this coin thought he had a bargain at \$6,500. Unfortunately, as he discovered, his specimen is only worth about \$2,500! Suggest one purchase from the truly knowledgeable when considering acquisition.

Our large silver triple plated 3-inch (or 2½ inch) medal that too was so well distributed, have sold as high as \$4000 — when available. Again, attribute price range to the condition. “**Original** Norse “thick” specimens currently sell between \$50 and \$95 while the rarer “thin” specimen can be presently purchased between \$100 and \$150 depending on the quality.”

Unfortunately, the just noted items are not as popular as they once were! Remember, condition is critical. Highly recommend the “thin” over the “thick,” as the later is much more abundant in the circulated and uncirculated states.

Thanks to friend and dealer David F. Schmidt of Tacoma, Washington, we know that 6,000 Norse “thins” were struck between May 21 and May 23, 1925. What we don’t know is the reason for the halt in production!

My hypothesis would reflect the Centennial Commission’s displeasure with the thin

planchet striking and thus, requested a thicker planchet. Or could it be just that 6,000 pieces were purposely ordered to create a rarer item to create future interest and increase sales?

We can then equate this to the Alabama 2x2 Grant with star and Missouri 2x4 low mintage commemorative issues that were produced along with larger mintages bearing the same design to help increase sales. Congressman Kvale knew about this.

Whatever the case, 33,750 “thicks” were produced between May 29 and June 13, 1925.

The gold medal production of 100 numbered pieces took place between June 3 and 4.

Concerning the 2½ inch or 3-inch bronze or silver medal as it was previously known, it can only be added that they were struck after November 27, 1925 and are triple silver plated on a copper-bronze planchet. Thirty instead of 26 pieces were presented to guests from Norway.

Also surfacing on the numismatic market — and previously unknown — were several excessively rare items. One was a die trial piece struck in solid silver of the 2½-inch silver plated medal.

The following is a description by medalist expert David T. Alexander: “This Norse piece is the 2½ inch medal as struck in bronze. The specimen is untrimmed, presenting a fully struck octagon on an unevenly scalloped planchet which appears to be solid silver, its edges rough with no trace at any point of any other metal underneath the silver surface.”

The overall diameter is about 3⅞-inch, darkened by toning, but spared handling by incurious years ‘in a box.’ The reverse die is the “Authorized by Congress of the United States ‘type’.”

Concerning the potential of this trial specimen, Alexander believes “it has unique market potential because of the long association of the Norse thick and thin with America’s commemorative coinage creating unmatched appeal.”

“As a U.S. Mint medal, as a work of James Earle Fraser and as an untrimmed die trial in a precious metal, this piece will offer powerful appeal to 16,000 medal collectors!”

It is also very appealing to a special segment of commemorative coinage collectors if this specimen were made available.

So vividly seen on this trial piece’s obverse is the designer’s initial F (Fraser) located at a seven o’clock position on the boulder below the ship’s rear oar.

Acquired by Richard Hartzog of Rockford, Illinois, was a trial 3-inch (or 2½-inch) medal struck in nickel. Unlike the abovementioned silver trial piece, the edges were trimmed, polished and rounded. Specimen was auctioned through World Exonomia where \$4,600 was required for its purchase! Today it resides in the collection of dealer friend Robert Rhue of Englewood, Colorado. Both the aforementioned were struck for Sinnock and possibly presented to Kvale.

It appears that our past chief engraver had a particular interest in nickel pieces, possibly because nickel was such a difficult and challenging metal to use. He might have liked to show his colleagues a large nickel medal. There are five nickel medals struck of the Nellie Taylor Ross Medal by Sinnock, but Harris’s research thus far does not show any striking records of the Norse piece.

Another discovery by your author was an extremely rare brilliant proof trial piece. This double or triple struck medal’s planchet weight is between that of the thick and thin (about 9.2 pennyweight). Thus, the medium weight Norse proof. Within the realm of the regular thin issue, dealer and co-Norse explorer, Selby Unger, discovered a double-die specimen, as well as pieces displaying a thin and fat (regular) horn; plus a fat with almost full horn aside from the normal striking.

There exists approximately ten complete sets (all four strikings) in a special velvet and wood frame covered with a glass slide. These are very difficult to locate and always in

demand! One such rarity which contained all original and undoctrined coins sold for \$13,400 seven years ago.

Can this medal be graded BU or AU? I do not know of any other issues that have been since I am not a medalist. However, being a true professional numismatist, I thought it should be done for a quality medal is worth more than one that is almost uncirculated or slightly worn.

Obverse wear will first occur on the handle of the dagger, the central portion of the diagonal chest strap and on the edge of the battle shield between the 8 and 9:30 o'clock positions.

Criss-cross friction lines, which will indicate a loss of metal and thus wear, will first appear on the reverse sloop's sail, between the 3 and 4:30 o'clock positions on the right side (closest to the mast) as well as on the last three battle shields and the oar's blades below them. Thus, should your specimen show signs of lost metal or friction in the aforementioned areas, your medal is somewhat abused!

Our story does not end here. Congressman Kvale also was pushing for a commemorative stamp! It was to be explained by him to the Third Assistant Postmaster General, Mr. Warren Irving Glover, that while the centennial was to especially observe the hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the RESTAURATIONEN, it also in a broader sense commemorates the arrival of the Vikings in 1000 A.D.! Thus, he felt two stamps would be more proper than one. Right political pressure on the "right" people resulted in the Postmaster General issuing two commemorative stamps.

There is even more! Both stamps were to be issued in two colors (bicolor). This meant that they were the first commemorative stamps issued as such and the only two-color stamps then in circulation with the exception of the \$5 stamp (Scott #573 - a beautiful issue depicting the Head of Freedom Statue, Capitol Dome in dark blue ink, with borders of carmine (lake) issued on April 20, 1923). Some philatelists might be quick to mention that the Pan-American Exposition issue of 1901 consisted of six commemorative bicolor stamps (Scott #294-299)! True, but again, they were not in circulation on May 18, 1925, when the Norse-American issue was released to commemorate the centenary of the New York arrival on October 9, 1925.

The 2-cent stamp (Scott #620) printed in carmine and black ink pictures a reproduction of the sloop RESTAURATIONEN. Flanking it on the borders on each side are depicted the figures that adorned the prows (forward part of a ship's hull or main body of a ship), in this case that of the ancient Viking ships and the battle shields used by the old chieftains.

The 5-cent stamp (Scott #621) printed in dark blue and black ink depicts the actual Viking ship which sailed to America from Norway at the time of the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. This beautifully crafted romantic ship is flanked on the left by a Norse shield with our nation's shield seen on the right.

Thanks to the dream which ignited the efforts to cause a proud and romantic Norseman's goal to materialize Norse history has been preserved in what we might call "metal and paper time capsules" that motivate the curious who cross paths with these Norse medals and stamps to "want to know more about them."

The story behind this issue is not complete for those few additional needles must and will be "found in the hay stack."

Replacing The Large Cent

Rian Thum, YN

Throughout its life, the large cent created problems. For one thing it was heavy and could not be carried in pockets comfortably. Also, the big pennies often became filthy in circulation and were seldom seen outside of large cities.

Originally, the mint had experimented with smaller cents that had silver plugs in the middle. However, these were not feasible. So in order to give pennies the appropriate intrinsic value they made them with the large diameter and thickness that we see on large cents. In subsequent years the weight was reduced occasionally to increase seigniorage, but the large cent's bulk was not considered a major problem for several years to come.

The first proposal for replacing the large cent was made by Dr. Lewis Feuchtwanger in 1837. He was not employed by the mint, but had developed an alloy he called "Feuchtwanger's Composition" that he wished to sell to the mint. Feuchtwanger's metal was similar to German silver (an alloy of copper, nickel, and zinc), but also had small amounts of other metals in it. He offered to supply his metal in unlimited quantities to the mint, but Congress rejected the proposal at the advice of mint officials. They feared that the nickel in his alloy would make it brittle and hard to work with.

Feuchtwanger reverted to striking his own coins with the denominations of one and three cents. Most pictured an eagle on the obverse and the words FEUCHTWANGER'S COMPOSITION along with the denomination on the reverse. A rarer obverse features the Arms of the State of New York. Feuchtwanger cent and three cent pieces are now included in the Hard Times Tokens series and are popular among collectors.

Not only were the large cents cumbersome and dirty, but by the 1850's they cost more than one cent each to produce. In 1850 the next potential replacement for the large cent was made. This experiment was the result of a letter written to Robert M. Patterson, Director of the Mint, from Sam F. Vinton, Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means in 1849. In the letter Vinton stated that the mint was to begin experimenting with ways to reduce the size of the large cent.

The trial pieces produced in 1850 were ring shaped coins made in billon, a ten percent silver, ninety percent copper alloy, and copper. These experiments continued into 1851 but with a new design. The ring experiments stopped, however, later in the year. The director of the mint decided that "... most of the value of a cent so formed would be sunk in the cost of striking."

Cent experiments did not resume until 1853, when James C. Booth, Melter and Refiner, suggested that German silver be used for cents, based on the fact that nickel was more valuable than copper. This would allow a decrease in the size of the cent. He also thought that nickel's physical properties would prevent counterfeiting. Pattern cents were struck in German silver using the obverse die of a quarter eagle. These coins were struck to show how clear of an impression could be made on the alloy.

Several pattern cents pieces were produced in 1854. Booth suggested that German silver pieces be made in a size between a dime and a quarter and a little thicker than a dime. These were made to show the size and properties of the metal and the obverse die was made by a copying lathe from a silver dollar obverse.

The Director of the Mint, James Snowden, had ideas of his own. He had concluded that it was no longer the intrinsic value of coins but the government's stamp on them that made them circulate. He proposed to the Secretary of the Treasury that the copper cents be reduced in weight. Snowden had coins lighter than the circulating large cent produced in bronze and copper, some with Liberty on the obverse and some with a flying eagle on the obverse. Similar experiments continued into 1855 using the same flying eagle design on different alloys. 60% copper and 40% nickel along with 80% copper and 20% nickel

pieces were made.

In 1856 Congress was working on a bill that would authorize the production of cents weighing 72 grains. James Snowden reported that a 88% copper and 12% nickel alloy would work much better than bronze for a cent this size. The first examples made in this metal were produced with half cent dies. The composition was then used in strikings of the 1856 flying eagle cents which were handed out to Congressmen in order to persuade them to pass what would become the Act of Feb. 21, 1857. The Act of Feb. 21, 1857 was passed and authorized the striking of these flying eagle cents for circulation, thus ending the search for a replacement for the large cent. 1857 was the last of 64 years in which large cents were produced for circulation.

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This coin club meets every minute of every day through various computerized bulletin boards. A bulletin board is basically a posting of an item by means of a computer that anyone can read and comment on if they so desire. You say you're not an expert on computers, well, you don't have to be an expert to be a club member. But, you do need a computer and a modem (a means of communication via the phone lines). The two most widely used software packages that will permit you access to these coin clubs are Prodigy and CompuServe. Prodigy, which I personally use (User ID HPRH39A), has an active coin collector bases that is constantly exchanging information and answering questions about such diverse subjects as identifying a certain coin to how to locate a coin club as well as discussing a new mint issue.

What if you lived in Davenport and wanted to send a quick note to a collector friend in East Lansing? You could do this through a system called electronic mail, one of the most useful numismatic tools to emerge from the computer revolution. E-mail is computer-to-computer communication over ordinary phone lines. With E-mail you can send messages or entire computer files instantly to numismatic friends across town or across the country. If the party you want to reach isn't there, your message is deposited in a mail box for later retrieval.

One item under consideration by several people is the formulation of an Association Special Interest Group (SIG) within one of the available commercial services (ie. Prodigy). This would allow certain aspects of coin club business to be conducted via the computer and spread the wealth of information that is available in the numismatic community.

Eventually, maybe the ANA Resource Center Catalog could come-on-line thus expediting the availability to borrow materials. Central States Numismatic Society news could be related faster and more direct to its members' clubs and to its membership. The possibilities are endless, with telecommunications improving every day and costs coming down with more and more people using this type of system to communicate.

Time keeps marching on and before you know it you will be able to pay your CSNS dues via computer, and even send an article for *The Centinel* via computer. Some people have nicknamed this whole concept CNIN which stands for Computerized Numismatic Information Networks. Whatever you call it, it is here to stay.



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Club News

MILWAUKEE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY ISSUES ELONGATED & WOODEN ROUND

The Milwaukee Numismatic Society has issued an elongated cent and a wooden souvenir round to commemorate its 58th Annual Coin Show which was held in September.

The elongated cent commemorates the Columbus Quincentenary and the wooden round features the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin. Both cost 25 cents.

Send your request with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Milwaukee Numismatic Society, 248 S. 7th Avenue, West Bend, WI 53095-3221.



WAUKESHA COIN CLUB ISSUES ELONGATED CENT

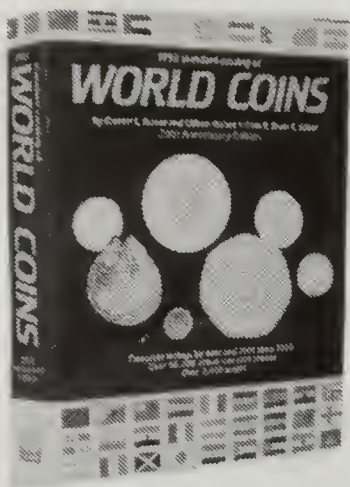
An elongated cent was issued by the Waukesha Coin Club to commemorate its 23rd annual coin show. The elongated cent is the second in a series and features the club seal.

Representatives of the City of Waukesha during a "sister city" visit this year to Kokchetav (a state in the former USSR) gave away as friendship tokens 200 of the 600 elongates made.

The elongates can be purchased two for \$1. Send your request with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Waukesha Coin Club, 1912 Laura Lane, Waukesha, WI 53186.



1993 Standard Catalog of World Coins



Krause Publications announces the June 1992 release of their landmark 20th anniversary edition of the **Standard Catalog of World Coins**.

With more than 50,000 photographs and over 2,000 pages, the new edition weighs in as the biggest, most comprehensive single volume of the **Standard Catalog** to date. "It definitely lives up to its reputation as the 'telephone book' of world coins," says Albert "Bo" Smith, publisher of the Krause Numismatic Division.

"The 20th edition contains well over 100,000 coin listings and presents the latest market valuations in up to four grades of preservation. It offers the most comprehensive coverage of world coins — from rare to common issues — in one economical reference," continues Smith.

An important feature of the latest edition is its up-to-date coverage of the ever-changing world political climate. **Standard Catalog** editor Colin Bruce II cites the dynamics of new republics emerging in Eastern Europe as one of the changes reflected with this edition, as some countries are now listed separately and alphabetically, instead of being grouped under the former "S.S.R." heading.

"This new placement puts these regal and republican coinage listings of days past in a position to accommodate new issues upon release under the particular current government headings for a quick overview and an easy-to-use reference," explains Bruce.

He continues, "We've also added over 4000 more crisp, clear illustrations of new issues, along with many older scarce-to-rare items. Also new to this edition are illustrations of many popularly collected subvarieties."

Production of the new **Standard Catalog of World Coins**, 20th edition, required thousands of hours of research from the Krause Publications staff as well as input from coin experts worldwide. Valuations were carefully determined by analyzing major world auction results, and dealer price lists and advertisements.

More than 50,000 actual photos are included to help collectors identify coins with confidence and occasional enlargements aid in the more difficult attributions. Each coin is identified with the universally accepted KM (Krause/Mishler) Numbering System, as well as other reference numbers.

The book is easy to use, and loaded with collector help such as visual identifiers that allows coins to be quickly identified by key national symbols, a Standard International Numerical Systems chart that cross-references date and denomination numerals, as well as actual weights in gold, silver, or platinum, a comprehensive Country Index, a Mint Index, a Coin Denomination Chart, and many other helpful charts and tables to help the collector quickly identify coins they have or those they wish to acquire.

"In the ever-changing panorama of world coinage, collectors can count on this all-new reference with the assurance of Krause Publication's forty years of coin knowledge and integrity," concludes Smith.

The **Standard Catalog of World Coins** 20th Edition is available from Krause Publications for \$42.95 + \$2.50 shipping and handling (U.S. addresses), 700 E. State Street, Iola, WI 54990-0001.

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Attention, Coin Clubs!

Would you like to see news of your club's activities covered in *The Centinel*? The editors welcome news of club happenings in the Central States region. Information on your upcoming coin show, numismatic accomplishments of your members, election of new officers and community projects sponsored by your club are only a few examples of matters your fellow numismatists would like to read about.

Feel free to send your club news to the editors along with any photographs to make your press release more interesting.

Send to:
Jim and Karen Jach
P.O. Box 21766
Milwaukee, WI 53221

Show Calendar

Show Chairmen are invited to send announcements of upcoming coin shows in the Central States region. The Show Calendar is intended to assist collectors and dealers in planning their show attendance. It is also designed to aid show sponsors in avoiding date conflicts. Show dates will be listed up to 24 months in advance and show sponsors are encouraged to submit dates for future shows through December, 1993. Please include the city where the show will be held, official name of the show, show dates and location, as well as the name, address and phone number of the show or bourse chairman. Send to Jim or Karen Jach, P.O. Box 21766, Milwaukee, WI 53221.

OMAHA, NEBRASKA — OCTOBER 3-4, 1992

Omaha Coin Club 32nd Annual Show. Western Heritage Museum, 801 S. 10th St., Omaha, NE. Ralph Reeves, 1027 S. 90th St., Omaha, NE 68114.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY — OCTOBER 9-11, 1992

Kentucky State Numismatic Association's 32nd Annual Coin Show sponsored by the Kentucky State Numismatic Association and Louisville Coin Club. Holiday Inn Downtown, 120 West Broadway, Louisville, KY 40202. Harry Tileston, P.O. Box 43744, Louisville, KY 40253-0744. Phone 502/244-2555.

SALINA, KANSAS — OCTOBER 10-11, 1992

Salina Coin Club, VFW, 1108 West Crawford, Salina, KS. Contact Salina Coin Club, Box 1111, Salina, KS 67402. Phone 913/827-9766 or 913/827-2024.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI — OCTOBER 23-25, 1992

Greater Kansas City 5th Semi-Annual U.S. & World Coin and Paper Money Show. Holiday Inn, Kansas City International Airport, Intersection I-29 & I-435 East, Kansas City, MO. Walt Johnson, 7327 Reeds Road, Overland Park, KS 66204. Phone 913/432-4525

BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA — OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 1, 1992

Minnesota Organization of Numismatists 30th Annual Coin Show. Airport Holiday Inn, 3 Appletree Square, 34th Avenue off I-494, Bloomington, MN. Dick Townsend, 507/288-0320.

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN — NOVEMBER 8, 1992

Dearborn Coin Club Annual Coin Show. Al Mata Hall, Oakman Blvd., north of Michigan Ave., Dearborn, MI. Helen Sedo, P.O. Box 891, Dearborn, MI 48121.

MADISON, WISCONSIN — NOVEMBER 8, 1992

Madison Fall Coin Show. Sheraton Inn & Conference Center, 706 John Nolen Dr., Madison, WI. Len Roosmalen, 702 N. Midvale Blvd., Madison, WI 53705. Phone 608/233-2118.

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN — NOVEMBER 27-29, 1992

Michigan State Numismatic Society Fall Convention hosted by the Northwest Detroit Coin Club and Royal Oak Coin Club. Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dearborn, MI. MSNS, P.O. Box 2014, Livonia, MI 48154.

MUNCIE, INDIANA — FEBRUARY 7, 1993

Muncie Coin & Stamp Club 35th Annual Show. Ball State University, Student Center - Cardinal Hall, 2200 University Avenue, Muncie, IN 47302. Ray Saylor, P.O. Box 1184, Muncie, IN 47302. Phone 317/288-0371.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS — FEBRUARY 26-28, 1993

Chicago International Coin Fair. Hyatt Regency Hotel, 151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL. Kevin Foley, P.O. Box 573, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

KENOSHA, WISCONSIN — FEBRUARY 28, 1993

Kenosha Coin Club's 35th Annual Show. Holiday Inn, 5125 6th Ave., Kenosha, WI. Jerry Binsfeld, P.O. Box 191, Pleasant Prairie, WI 53158.

RACINE, WISCONSIN — MARCH 7, 1993

Racine Numismatic Society's 55th Annual Show. Sheraton Hotel, 7111 W. Washington Ave., Hwy. 20. Bill Spencer, 2724 16th Avenue, Racine, WI 53405. Phone 414/637-7766.

WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN — MARCH 14, 1993

Waukesha Coin Club Show, Expo Arena, 1200 Northview Rd., Waukesha, WI. Tom Snyder, 801 Northview Rd., Waukesha, WI 53188. Phone 414/476-8128.

BROOKLYN CENTER, MINNESOTA — MARCH 19-21, 1993

Northwest Coin Club 58th Annual Coin Show. Earle Brown Heritage Center, 6155 Earle Brown Drive, Brooklyn Center, MN. John Saffert, P.O. Box 18053, Minneapolis, MN 55418. Phone 612/888-5751.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN — APRIL 30-MAY 2, 1993

South Shore Coin Club's Annual Coin Show. MECCA Convention Center, 4th and Kilbourn, Milwaukee, WI. Mike Roe, 1534 St. Charles, Wauwatosa, WI 53213. Phone 414/453-0426.

ROSEMONT (CHICAGO), ILLINOIS — MAY 20-23, 1993

Central States Numismatic Society's 54th Annual Convention, Rosemont Exposition Center, 9301 West Bryn Mawr Road, Rosemont, IL. Fred Oliver, 743 Caliente Dr., Brandon, FL 33511. Phone 813/684-3854.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN — JUNE 25-27, 1993

Mid America Coin Convention, MECCA Convention Center, 500 W. Kilbourn Avenue, Milwaukee, WI. Kevin Foley, P.O. Box 589, Milwaukee, WI 53201.

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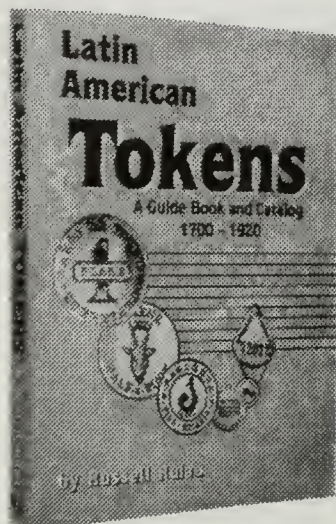
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Newest Book in Series Highlights Values of Latin American Tokens

IOLA, WI — What were once only collectible oddities may now be realizing values in the hundreds of dollars, according to the new **Latin American Tokens: A Guidebook and Catalog**, by expert exonomist Russell Rulau.



In the 1800s, Mexican plantation workers, Jamaican stevedores, and Panama Canal construction workers were paid with workplace tallies, used in lieu of money on the agricultural and stock raising estates and in the mines, mills, and docks of Latin America. This practice was outlawed in the early 1900s, but their use was an integral part of the colorful culture of North and South America and their roots as 'moneda del pueblo' (money of the people) goes back to 16th century Mexico and 17th century Chile and Peru.

Collectors of Latin American tokens have long faced daunting obstacles in their quest to identify and value their pieces, due to the lack of a comprehensive catalog that covers all aspects of the Latin series. But the new **Latin American Tokens: A Guidebook and Catalog** provides collectors with this long-awaited reference.

The book is intended to identify and value the tokens of the average collector, and reveal the historical setting for their existence.

For token collectors, "What is it worth?" is almost as important as "What is it?" Because token pricing is in its infancy, this new reference book is the first of its kind to assign an estimated value or actual sale value for the majority of available tokens.

With over 400 pages and 1200+ photos, **Latin American Tokens** includes a glossary with Spanish/English translations, token values in up to four grades, prices in U.S. dollars for most listings, a triple-subject index, diesinker remarks, and background histories.

For easy reference, tokens are divided geographically into the nation in which the tokens were issued as that nation's borders exist today. State or province divisions are then listed alphabetically.

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